

**COUNCIL ON AGING  
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
JANUARY 23, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on January 23, 2014 in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. The following people were present:

Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member  
Barbara Coates, Regular Member  
Joanne Damish, Regular Member  
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member  
Robert Moody, Regular Member  
Edith Noyes, Regular Member  
David Sullivan, Regular Member  
Ann Murphy, Associate Member  
Mark Gallivan, Board of Selectmen  
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker  
Courtney Riley, Director

The following people were absent:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member  
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member  
Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member  
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member  
Kristin Smith, Regular Member  
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Christy Canney, and McKeen Kessel

Since there are 15 regular members of the Council officially, Ann Murphy, an associate member, was appointed to vote at this meeting to make a quorum. Courtney and Mark will work on re-structuring the membership.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Secretary's Report**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of December 26, 2013, amended. The motion was seconded and passed (8-0-0).

**Treasurer's Report**

Courtney Riley, in the absence of Jim Pellegrine, stated that the Council is in the black. Jim is expected to give reports for both December and January next month.

**Director's Report**

Courtney expressed thanks to the Friends of Walpole Elders for the recent party at Raffael's and a thank you to the Police Union for the Holiday Party at Finnegan's Wake.

One of the upcoming events is Walpole Day on May 17, 2014. She asked if members would like to have a float and/or a table. Everyone was in agreement that they would like to have both. Dave said he has a tent that could be used for protection over a table. Volunteering to work at the table were Lloyd Smith, who will chair it; also, Edith Noyes, Bob Moody, and Terry Lehrman. Dave Sullivan and another person will be in charge of the float.

Regarding the potentiality of getting a microphone system, as was discussed last month at the unofficial meeting, Vince Hobson, PC Support Technician for the Town, has done some research. Courtney distributed copies of what he recommends – Nady 401X Quad WHT Handheld VHF Wireless Microphone System for the price of \$812.93 for the entire system, which would consist of 4 microphones, an amplifier, and a storage case. The money would come out of the Gift Account. It could be transferred to the new (potential) center. It is wireless. A motion was made by Dave Sullivan to buy the suggested item. The motion was seconded by Terry Lehrman and passed (8-0-0).

In the future, Courtney hopes the seniors can do more with the schools in town. Two plays are coming up and free attendance by seniors is offered at the dress rehearsals. One is "The Sound of Music" at Bird Middle School; the other is "Much Ado About Middle School" at Johnson Middle School. Transportation will be available. Dave suggested developing a system whereby seniors from nearby towns could also attend the dress rehearsals, and seniors from Walpole could attend dress rehearsals at schools in other towns free of charge.

**Outreach Worker's Report**

Conchita Geyer reported that most of her time this month was spent visiting elders in their homes and nursing homes and working on fuel-assistance applications. There is one client who is not safe living alone and has been advised to give up her house; but she is adamant about remaining there. In another case, a woman had no heat, and her oil company was reluctant to make a delivery because she already had an outstanding bill with the oil company. A negotiation took place and she received some oil.

Conchita was invited by Courtney to meet the new RSVP Director, Joseph Kaplan. He informed them of some changes that have been made in the Volunteer Program.

Dave wondered if there could be some way to have oil on reserve to be used in cases such as the one stated earlier. Courtney stated that it can be done but the clients should know the help is coming from the Council, not the senior center. Another way of helping, as suggested by Dave, is to have a flea market in the fall. Barbara Coates questioned what the criteria is for it to be dangerous for a senior to be in his/her own home. Conchita said they are referred by Protective Services of HESSCO.

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### **Senior Center Status**

Mark Gallivan reported that nothing has come up bad or good in the last month, but the project is continuing to move forward. The Board of Selectmen is trying to finalize an agreement that the existing building be torn down.

### **Van Report**

Courtney reported that, during December, the 19-passenger van carried 114 passengers, traveled 324 miles, and used 47 gallons of gas. The 17-passenger van carried 127 passengers, traveled 579 miles, and used 70 gallons of gas. The 12-passenger van carried 51 people, traveled 506 miles, and used 63 gallons of gas. The totals were 292 passengers, 1409 miles, and 180 gallons of gas.

### **Senior Citizens Club**

Edith Noyes reported there was no meeting in January.

### **HESSCO**

Jim Pellegrine will report at the February meeting.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Courtney Riley stated that she met with the assistant executive director and the program director at New Pond Village. They agreed that the Council on Aging and New Pond Village will support each other as much as possible by inviting the people who live at New Pond Village to programs at the Center and vice versa.

Terry Lehrman stated that the Housing Authority is doing a better job with snow removal than it has in the past.

A motion was made by Dave Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (8-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

*Emily Conrad*

Emily Conrad, Secretary